

THE "NET"



Lincoln Business Watch

Fall Issue

Construction Sites Don't Have to be an Easy Target

For the months of June, July and August construction sites have been a frequent target of burglars in town. During this three month period 25 locations have been targeted with losses totaling almost \$38,625.00. A majority of the equipment taken in these burglaries occurred in trailers that had been parked outside. A number of incidents have also occurred from suspects entering unlocked homes and finding tools that had been left inside. The best option, and what the police would recommend, is for tool trailers to be hooked up and taken away from work sites each and every evening. Construction sites are often in areas of town where a large numbers of homes are being built simultaneously. This creates two problems. First, the number of incidents that can occur in a small area is appealing to burglars. Usually, these areas are void of anyone residing and thieves can come and go often unnoticed. Secondly, padlocks are usually the only thing separating a trailer and its contents from a burglar and a large payday. Any type of prying tool and a little bit of muscle results in these locks being defeated. Tools come at a hefty price and losses usually run from several hundred dollars to several thousand dollars in a single incident.

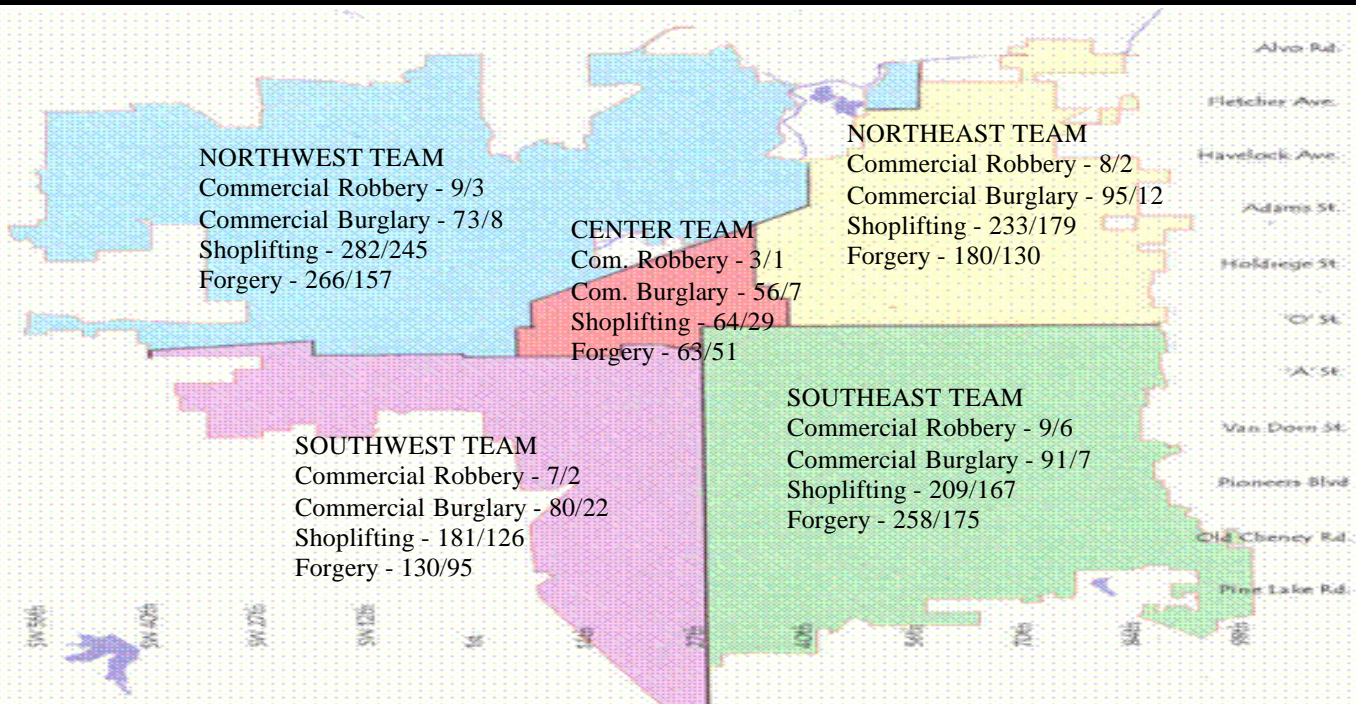
Things to remember at construction sites:

- * If a trailer must be left overnight do so only under the best lighting conditions.
- * Record any and all serial numbers of tools regardless of where they are kept.
- * If there are no serial numbers, mark the tools with some marking that can be easily recognizable at a later time.
- * Always keep an inventory of your tools for insurance purposes.

The more precautions you can take the less likely you are of being victimized. Don't take an unnecessary chance.

CRIME TRENDS

Between 1-1-05 thru 8-31-05 The first number will be the number of reported incidents. The second number is how many incidents have been cleared with an arrest.

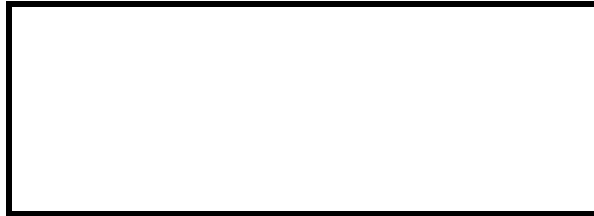


“The NET”

Lincoln Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
575 S. 10th Street
Lincoln NE 68508



Return Service Requested



Robberies: Not a Thing of the Past

Since the beginning of the year 36 robberies have occurred at commercial businesses in Lincoln. Of those, 15 have been cleared with an arrest. The current trend shows restaurants are the biggest target. However, banks, convenience stores and motels have all been victims. Frequently, incidents have occurred either during opening or closing times, when employees are the most vulnerable. Tasks needing to be completed usually require employees being in different places throughout the business. This does not allow for employees to keep an eye out for one another. Survey your business. Examine what can be done to eliminate the opportunity for your business to be a victim.

Here are some things to remember:

- ◆ Always have more than one person present during these times.
- ◆ Tasks requiring employees to leave the building (taking out the trash, other outdoor chores) should be completed by more than one employee, or if possible completed at a time during normal business hours.
- ◆ Keep windows free from obstructions allowing visibility both into and out of the business.
- ◆ Keep shrubbery and landscaping trimmed and to a minimum.
- ◆ Parking areas should be well lit and free from obstructions. Make certain employees are parking near the building and away from visually obstructed areas. Use main streets to your advantage. Usually traffic will flow heavier on these streets allowing for natural surveillance.
- ◆ Keep areas well posted. Keep customers out of areas that should not be traveled in.
- ◆ Employee breaks should be taken inside the business.
- ◆ Install and use security camera systems. Make certain fresh videos are constantly being used in recorders.

Nothing is ever 100%!!! If you do become the unfortunate victim of a robbery try and remain calm. Notify the police as soon as it is safe to do so. Be prepared to give a description of the suspect. The following are all useful pieces of information for officers responding to the area. Make certain the person who was confronted is the one who dials 911. They will have a better description of the person they observed.

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|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ◇ Race | ◇ Height and Weight | ◇ Odors (smoke, alcohol) |
| ◇ Age | ◇ Clothing Description | ◇ Last place the suspect was observed |
| ◇ Gender | ◇ Visual scars marks or tattoos | |

Write down what occurred. Keep from speaking with anyone about the incident until the police arrive. Doing so will only confuse your descriptions and chain of events. Relax, at this point the worst part is over!!!